



NELSON W. WOLFF
COUNTY JUDGE
BEXAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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February 12, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith
United States Representative, District 21
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

Bexar County is poised to take the next step in constructing county facilities that are energy efficient and sustainable. We are in the process of developing a comprehensive program designed to reduce the county's greenhouse gas emissions. Bexar County has demonstrated its commitment to solar power by installing energy and solar water heaters in several of our correctional facilities. Currently, we have our first LEED Silver Certified building under construction. This is a 205,000 square foot expansion of the Cadena-Reeves Justice Center.

We see this new facility as Bexar County's 21st Century signature building. In similar fashion, we view the historic Bexar County Courthouse as the County's 19th Century building, and the Cadena-Reeves Justice Center as the County 20th Century building.

Energy conservation and reduction of the County's carbon footprint or greenhouse gas emissions is a major goal for us in this century. We believe that installation of the photovoltaic collection panels and distribution system in this new building will accomplish many things: a 21st century statement, reduction of dependence on fossil fuels, and reduction in the County's greenhouse gas emissions. I ask that you make this project one of your top priorities during the appropriations process.

Thank you for your leadership in helping Bexar County Commissioners Court to create a renewable future for our state and for our country!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nelson W. Wolff", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Nelson W. Wolff

NWW/ccs